



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House, Room 224
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-222-2080

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

June 26, 2012

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Rhode Island and Section 43-1-4 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I transmit, with my disapproval, 2012-H 7536 Substitute A/2, As Amended, "An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Department of Environmental Management – Pets."

This legislation would allow pet domestic birds or mammals that do not require an exotic animal possession permit, and weigh less than 35 pounds, into state-owned campgrounds.

Currently, dogs and cats are allowed into the sites, but this legislation would allow many additional species of animals into the campgrounds. I have concerns about this legislation, and the challenges the Department of Environmental Management would have with enforcement. This legislation would require detailed identification training for seasonal and park staff to ensure that all animals entering state campgrounds have the necessary vaccinations, are spayed/neutered, and are not endangered species.

There are also public safety and health impacts of allowing such a large volume of new species into the state campgrounds. These concerns include the spread of disease, invasive species threats, and animal aggressiveness towards humans and/or other animals. Finally, there could be disruptions to the tenants at the campgrounds, due to the potential nuisance and/or noise that a large variety of animals may cause.

For these reasons, I disapprove of this legislation and respectfully urge your support of this veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Chafee".

Lincoln D. Chafee